

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) - ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR INITIATION OF A WATER QUALITY RESTORATION STUDY FOR THE JAMES RIVER AND SELECTED TRIBUTARIES IN CITIES OF RICHMOND, HOPEWELL, PETERSBURG, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, AND COUNTIES OF CHESTERFIELD, HENRICO, DINWIDDIE, PRINCE GEORGE, CHARLES CITY, AND SURRY IN VIRGINIA**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Two public meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. An afternoon meeting will be held at 2pm at the East End Library located at 2414 "R" St. Richmond, VA 23223. An evening meeting will be held at 6pm at the Piedmont Regional Office of DEQ located at 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. In case of inclement weather, check the DEQ website for rescheduled date ([www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov)). Both meetings are open to the public.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is announcing the initiation of a water quality restoration study for the James River and selected tributaries which are impaired due to Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). A public comment period will follow the 1/11/11 meetings and will expire on February 14, 2011.

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** First public "kick-off" meetings on this study to share ongoing efforts to-date with the public. The meeting will include information regarding PCBs, DEQ monitoring data, how the pollutant will be modeled in the waterways, and ongoing voluntary sampling efforts throughout the watershed by facilities.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** The following streams are found to exceed the water quality standard for PCBs and are in violation of the "fishing" designated use in the jurisdictions mentioned (title above): Appomattox River (to Lake Chesdin Dam), Bailey Creek (to Rt. 360), Bailey Bay, Chickahominy River (to Walkers Dam). Additionally, the James River is impaired from the fall line to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. For the purposes of these meetings, the James River from the fall line to the Charles City Co. and Surry Co. extents will be discussed. Information regarding the impairments is available on the DEQ website ([http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqa/pdf/2010ir/appendices/ir10\\_AppendixA\\_Category5\\_Factsheets\\_James.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqa/pdf/2010ir/appendices/ir10_AppendixA_Category5_Factsheets_James.pdf) search factsheet using term "PCB"). Two studies are being developed concurrently due to the size of the impaired watershed. This set of public meetings will focus on the upper tidal portion of the James River and selected tributaries. A second study is being developed for the lower tidal James River and selected tributaries (1<sup>st</sup> public meetings were held on Dec. 1st). If you would like information on the lower tidal James River PCB study, please contact Jennifer Howell at [Jennifer.Howell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Howell@deq.virginia.gov).

The study will report on the sources of PCB contamination and will recommend total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. Public comments will be incorporated into the TMDL development. Following the public notice and review of the final TMDL draft report (to be available at some point in the future), DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The final TMDL report is due to EPA in 2014. Given the extent of the impairments and complexities of the pollutant, DEQ is initiating the TMDL study now, in order to allow the time necessary for study development.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will end on February 14, 2011.

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